

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 AMMAN 1084

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 ADS FEBRUARY 28,1977 OR UPON PUBLIC RELEASE
TAGS/ PFOR JO US
SUBJECT: TEXT HUSSEIN INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK FOR PUBLICATION
FEBRUAR 27,1977

REF: AMMAN 1083

BEGIN TEXT: THE FOLLOWING IS KING HUSSEIN'S INTERVIEW WITH
ARNAUD DE BROCHGRAVE. IT WILL APPEAR IN NEXT MONDAY'S
(FEB 28) EDITION OF NEWSWEEK AND THE HERALD TRIBUNE.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH OF A SETBACK DO YOU FEEL THE WASHINGTON
POST STORY HAS BEEN TO THE PEACE WITH ISRAEL CAMPAIGN?

ANSWER: I FEVERENTLY HOPE OF COURSE THAT IT WONT BE A
SETBACK. ADMITTEDLY IT MAY HAVE A DELETERIOUS EFFECT
ON OUR PEACE EFFORTS BUT I PLAN TO PERSEVERE REGARDLESS
OF ATTEMPTS TO SABATAGE A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: WHO IN YOUR JUDGEMENT BENEFITS FROM THE
WASHINGTON "DISCLOSURES"?

ANSWER: TWO QUARTERS, ONE IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY THAT HAS
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BEEN TRYING TO UNDERMINE ONE OF YOUR KEY INSTITUTIONS
THAT HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN A WORLD-WIDE STRUGGLE TO TRY
TO NEUTRALIZE THE ACTIONS OF THE KGB IN ITS EFFORTS
TO PROMOTE COMMUNISM. THE OTHER IS A POWERFUL ZIONIST
GROUP THAT IS NOT INTERESTED IN A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHTBORS AND WHICH ALSO FEELS THAT
IT HAS A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH JORDAN. DONT FORGET

THAT IT WAS THE ISRAELI LOBBY THAT LAUNCHED THE CAMPAIGN TO GET YOUR CONGRESS TO BLOCK THE HAWK ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM SALE TO JORDAN; FORTUNATELY THE LOBBY'S CAMPAIGN WAS UNSUCCESSFUL.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH TRUTH IS THERE IN THE WASHINGTON POST STORY?

ANSWER: THE WHOLE THING IS RIDICULOUS AND INSULTING BUT I AM PREPARED TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ABOUT IT.

QUESTION: YOUR GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE STORY WAS A COMBINATION OF "FABRICATION AND DISTORTION". WHAT HAS BEEN FABRICATED AND WHAT HAS BEEN DISTORTED?

ANSWER: WHAT WAS FABRICATED WAS EVERYTHING ABOUT FUNDS BEING HANDED OVER PERSONALLY FOR PRIVATE BENEFITS. WHEN FRIENDLY ARAB COUNTRIES EXTEND AID IT HAS BEEN TRADITIONALLY FOR THE CHECKS TO BE MADE OUT TO THE HEAD OF STATE WHICH THEN ARE DEPOSITED IN THE STATE BUDGET ACCOUNT. THIS IS NOT AN UNCOMMON PRACTICE ALL ASSISTANCE RECEIVED BY US IS HANDLED THE SAME WAY. WHAT IS TRUE IS THAT A NUMBER OF YEARS WE HAVE BEEN OFFERED SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE ASSISTANCE WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN ACCEPTED GRATEFULLY.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER ORDERING THE ARRANGEMENT CODENAMED "NO BEEF" STOPPED?

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ANSWER: WE HAD, I PROMISE YOU, NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT ALL THIS BEFORE. IF THE REFERENCE IS TO THE ASSISTANCE WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FOR SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE, THEN IT HAVE NOT BEEN ADVISED ABOUT ITS SUSPENSION, EITHER OFFICIALLY OR UNOFFICIALLY. AS FOR THE STORY THAT THE CIA PAID FOR THE PROTECTION OF MY CHILDREN AT SCHOOL IN AMERICA, MY REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHICH KINDLY AGREED TO INSURE THEIR SECURITY. REMEMBER THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY EXTREMISTS PLOTS AGAINST ME AND MY FAMILY AND THIS WAS A PERFECTLY NORMAL REQUEST. IF AMY CARTER DECIDED TO COME TO SCHOOL IN JORDAN WE WOULD, NEEDLESS TO SAY, BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HER SECURITY AND WOULD NOT BE SENDING A BILL TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR ANY ELEMENTARY COURTESY AND SECURITY MEASURE.

QUESTION: THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT BOARD SET UP IN FEBRUARY 1976 REPORTED TO PRESIDENT FORD A FEW MONTHS LATER THAT THEY REGARDED THE PAYMENTS AS IMPROPER AND

THAT HE DID NOTHING ABOUT IT. WHAT WAS IMPROPER ABOUT THEM?

ANSWER: WHAT IS A PROPER WAY TO SUPPORT A FRIEND AND ALLY IS STRICTLY YOUR BUSINESS. THE SUBJECT NEVER CAME UP BEFORE AND I WAS TOTALLY UNAWARE THAT THIS ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN HAD COME INTO QUESTION LAST YEAR. WHAT IS PROPER IN SOME MINDS IS APPARENTLY IMPROPER IN OTHERS. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, ANYTHING I CAN GET FOR JORDAN AND MY PEOPLE IS PROPER, AND FIVE OF YOUR PRESIDENTS THOUGHT SO TOO.

QUESTION: SINCE THE ASSISTANCE WAS PROPER AND JUST ANOTHER FORM OF US AID, WHY THEN THE SECRECY IN METHOD OF PAYMENTS?

ANSWER: IF YOU MEAN THE REPORT THAT PAYMENTS WERE MADE DIRECTLY
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TO THE KING AND FOR HIS BENEFIT AND WITH POLITICAL CONDITIONS AND OBLIGATIONS THIS IS A COMPLETE FABRICATION. THE ASSISTANCE WAS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE OUR INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CAPABILITIES PERIOD.

QUESTION: WHAT FOR EXAMPLE DO YOU FEEL THE WASHINGTON POST STORY WILL DO TO YOUR ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE YOUR DIFFERENCES WITH THE PLO AND FORM A JOINT DELEGATION FOR THE GENEVA TALKS? IS IT STILL A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY?

ANSWER: A PLO DELEGATION IS IN AMMAN THIS WEEK AND THE WHOLE QUESTION OF A JOINT DELEGATION IS STILL VERY MUCH IN QUESTION. THE DIALOGUE HAS BARELY BEGUN. TO WHAT DEGREE POLITICAL ACTION CAN BE COORDINATED AMONG US IS SOMETHING WE WILL BE EXPLORING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. AND THE WHOLE ARAB POSITION ON THIS PROBLEM IS YET TO CRYSTALLIZE.

QUESTION: IT IS YOUR IMPRESSION THAT THE PLO IS NOW READY TO AMEND ITS BASIC CHARTER AND AGREE TO COEXIST PEACEFULLY WITH ISRAEL IN A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE?

ANSWER: THIS IS THE DECISION THAT THEY MUST FACE BUT IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT THE ISRAELI POSITION WILL BE. WHY SHOULD THE PLO TAKE SUCH A STEP UNILATERALLY? THERE MUST BE A DEGREE OF SIMULTANEITY. ISRAEL RECOGNIZES A PALESTINAI/WEST BANK/GAZA/STATE AND THE PALESTINIANS RECOGNIZE ISRAEL.

QUESTION: IS IT YOUR INTENTION TO NEGOTIATE WITH

THE PLO PRIOR TO GENEVA NEW ORGANIC LINK
BETWEEN A POSSIBLE PALESTINIANS STATE ON THE
WEST BANK AN JORDAN PROPER?

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 687

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 AMMAN 1084

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

ANSWER: THIS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY MANY LEADERS IN THE
AREA AS A POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT AND WE CER-
TAINLY PLAN TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES, BUT I MUST
CAUTION YOU AGAINST OVER OPTIMISM. THE RESUMPTION OF
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BY ITSELF MEANS NOTHING. AND IF IT
DOESN'T PRODUCE THE QUICK RESULTS SOME PEOPLE
EXPECT, THEN THERE WILL BE THE DANGER OF THE PENDULUM
SWINGING BACK AND THE EXTREMISTS COMING TO THE FORE
AGAIN.

QUESTION: HOW DO YOU THINK THE LATEST CIA STORY WILL
AFFECT US-JORDANIAN RELATIONS?

ANSWER: THROUGHOUT ALL THESE YEAR I HAVE BEEN VERY
PROUD OF THE GROWING STRENGTH OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH
OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS. WE IDENTIFIED WITH PRINCIPLES YOUR
FTREFATHERS HELD DEAR. WE BUILT OUR RELATIONS ON
THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT, CONFIDENCE AND FAITH.
AND BEYOND THAT ANYTHING I DID TO CEMENT RELATIONS
WITH THE US WAS BASED ON A DEEP CONVICTION ABOUT OUR
COMMON OBJECTIVES--STABILITY, PEACE AND PROGRESS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST. FOR MANY YEARS I TRIED TO BRING
TO THE US PEOPLE THE REAL TRUTH ABOUT THE HOPES AND
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ASPIRATIONS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE, UNCOLORED AND UNTAINTED BY THE EXTREMEISTS WHO WERE SPREADING THEIR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE AREA. FOR YEARS WE FELT RATHER LONELY AND IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT MANY OTHER MIDDLE EASTERN LEADERS HAVE COME TO SHARE OUR PERCEPTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS. THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS WE HAVE NOT BEEN A RICH COUNTRY AND WE RECEIVED HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PEOPLE. WE HAVE ENJOYED SYMPATHY AND GROWING SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING FOR THE CAUSE WE WERE DEFENDING. WE WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR EVERYTHING WE HAVE RECEIVED AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS SERVED COMMON OBJECTIVES. MY DUTY IS TO DEVELOP MY COUNTRY, ITS HUMAN RESOURCES, ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY SERVICES TO FACE THE TREMENDOUS THREATS THAT LIE AHEAD. THE ROAD IS STREWN WITH MINES TO SABOTAGE THE PEACE PROCESS. ONE HAS JUST EXPLODED IN WASHINGTON. THERE WILL BE OTHERS, BUT BEAR IN MIND THAT JORDAN IS NOT UNIQUE IN RECEIVING SUCH HELP. ISRAEL FALLS INTO THE SAME CATEGORY AND IS A FAR GREATER EXAMPLE OF ALL KINDS OF ASSISTANCE. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED THESE WILL BE MY FIRST AND VERY LAST WORDS ON THIS MATTER. MY PERSONAL PRIDE IS A VERY TOUCHY SUBJECT AND MY MAIN CONCERN IS TO PRESERVE JORDAN IN FREEDOM. TO US, THE CIA IS A PART OF THE US GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ACQUIRE KNOW-HOW EQUIPMENT AND NEW CAPABILITIES TO DEFEND OURSELVES IN THE FACE OF THE WORLDWIDE BATTLE, BE IT HOT OR COLD, WHICH IS STILL WITH US. AND WHEREEVER THERE IS AN IDENTITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE FRUITFUL AND MUTUAL COOPERATION. FINALLY, REGARDING YOUR MEDIA ATTACKS AGAINST A BRANCH OF YOUR GOVERNMENT; IF YOU CHOOSE TO DENUDE A VITAL ARM THAT IS THERE TO PROTECT YOU THAT IS YOUR AFFAIR, NOT JORDAN'S.

QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU FEEL WAS THE PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION
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OF THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED FOR (SIC) THE WASHINGTON POST STORY?

ANSWER: TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY AND INTEGRITY OF THOSE WHO ARE ABLE AND WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORCES OF PEACE. MY PEOPLE KNOW ME AND I KNOW THEM AND THESE ATTACKS ARE FUTILE IN TERMS OF THE JORDANIAN SCENE. WE ARE STRONGER THAN ANYTHING THAT

CAN BE LEVELED AGAINST US. IT WAS HARDLY COINCIDENTAL THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE MADE AS THE PEACE OFFENSIVE WAS PICKING UP STEAM AND ON THE VERY DAY THAT SECRETARY VANCE ARRIVED IN AMMAN. IT IS OBVIOUS TO ME THAT THOSE WHO WISH TO SABOTAGE THE PEACE PROCESS AND HELP ISRAEL STAY PUT IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE EVEN WILLING TO ENGAGE IN CHARACTER ASSASSINATION OF PERSONS WHOSE DEAREST WISH IS A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE.

QUESTION: DO YOU FEEL THAT SECRETARY VANCE BROUGHT ANY FRESH THINKING TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM?

ANSWER: HE WAS HERE MOSTLY TO LISTEN AND ACQUAINT HIMSELF WITH THE REALITIES ON THE GROUND. IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RELAUNCH THE PEACE PROCESS, BUT IT WILL BE VERY HARD AND VERY LONG AND NEED A LOT OF PATIENCE. REALITY SHOWS THAT GENEVA IS NOT A PANACEA. OVER OPTIMISM WILL BE OUR GREATEST PROBLEM. END OF INTERVIEW.

2. GIVEN SENSITIVITY OF THIS INTERVIEW AND ITS SOURCE AND FACT THAT ONLY FEW PEOPLE IN JORDAN KNOW OF IT, I

TRUST THIS CABLE AND THE CABLE UNDER REFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN APPROPRIATE RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION. RECOMMEND PASS NSC STAFF AND CIA ASAP.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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